DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 435 435 PS 027 760

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TITLE	On the Safe Side: Your Complete Reference to Childproofing for Infants & Toddlers.
ISBN	ISBN-0-9662569-5-6
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	140p.; Foreword by Robert W. Stelle.
AVAILABLE FROM	Whirlwind Publishing Company, P.O. Box 901266, Kansas City, MO 64190-1266 ($12.95). Tel: 888-291-5683 (Toll Free); e-mail: Safety@kansascity.com
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Accident Prevention; Infant Behavior; Infant Care; *Infants; *Risk Management; *Safety; *Toddlers
IDENTIFIERS	*Child Safety; *Risk Reduction

ABSTRACT

Noting that accidents are the leading cause of death among infants and children today, this book provides comprehensive guideline for preparing a safe home and caregiving environment for children from birth to around 3 years of age. Following an introduction, the chapters are organized by rooms of a house, with topics listed alphabetically within chapter, and guidelines presented in the form of checklists. The chapters are: (1) "Around Your Home," including banisters, doors, fire safety, outlets, stairs, and windows; (2) "Living Areas," including bookcases, doorway bouncers, electronics, lamps, and office supplies; (3) "Kitchen & Dining Room," including cabinets, food safety, refrigerators, and trash cans; (4) "Bathroom," including appliances, shower and bathtub, and toilets; (5) "Baby's Room," including changing table, dresser, nightlight, and toys; (6) "Parent's & Sibling's Bedrooms," including bed and nightstands; (7) "Utility Rooms & Garage," including garage door opener, pets, and washers and dryers; (8) "Outdoors," including decks, playgrounds, rural hazards, swimming pools, and yard equipment; (9) "Away from Home," including air and auto travel, backpacks, shopping carts, strangers, and strollers; (10) "Environmental Hazards," specifically asbestos, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrates, and radon; and (11) "Necessary Safety Items," such as babysitter information sheets, car seats, fire extinguishers, gates, CPR skills, and syrup of ipecac. The final chapter notes the importance of childproofing areas before they become a hazard to the child and that childproofing does not replace constant adult supervision. Three appendices list contact information for relevant catalogs, appropriate agencies, and poison control centers by state. (Contains 55 references.) (KB)

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